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Contact:

Lauren Ruddy

Communications & Special Events Coordinator

Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland

216-883-2106 x.238; lruddy@clevelandkids.org

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland
Tackles High School Graduation Rates in Cleveland**
*University of Phoenix Foundation Encourages Youth to
Be Great and Graduate with National Education Initiative*

Cleveland, OH, November 4, 2011 – One in three kids in the United States fails to graduate each year. Additionally, one in two African American and Hispanic children fall short of high school graduation. Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland is working hard to combat these unsettling statistics through implementation of the BE GREAT: Graduate program, funded by University of Phoenix Foundation. As part of the program, Cleveland youth will be set on the right track to high school graduation.

The BE GREAT: Graduate program is part of a national partnership between University of Phoenix Foundation and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. BE GREAT: Graduate helps young people who are the most vulnerable for dropping out of school to develop the academic, behavioral and social skills needed to be successful.

“By providing our members with the resources and positive environment they need to progress through each grade to graduation, we are hoping to close the gap for young people in our community that fail to graduate each year,” said Ron Soeder, President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland. “Thanks to the generous support of University of Phoenix Foundation, we can impact youth today for a brighter future tomorrow.”

Targeting youth who show warning signs for potentially dropping out of school, BGCC will monitor 50 youth over the next three years and look for the early warning signs of dropping out – also known as the ABC’s – attendance, behavior and course failure. The program allows each participant to receive a graduation mentor to provide coaching and tutoring for academic success.

“Our University of Phoenix campuses are proud to partner with the Club on this exciting new initiative to improve the graduation rates of our community’s youth,” said Pat Gottfried, executive director, University of Phoenix Foundation. “At University of Phoenix we believe the path to higher education starts in childhood. This innovative program will help us all learn how we can help our at-risk youth overcome obstacles and reach new academic heights.”

For more information on Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland services and programs for Cleveland youth, including BE GREAT: Graduate, visit www.clevekids.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, the Cleveland, Ohio Chapter of the national organization, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, was founded in 1954 and currently serves over 6,000 youth in Cleveland’s inner-city neighborhoods and in Cleveland Heights. Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland provides: a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life-enhancing programs and character development experiences and most importantly, hope and opportunity. The mission of the national organization is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

About University of Phoenix

University of Phoenix is constantly innovating to help students balance education and life in a rapidly changing world. Flexible schedules, challenging courses and interactive learning help students pursue personal and career aspirations without putting their lives on hold. As the flagship university of Apollo Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: APOL), University of Phoenix serves a diverse student population, offering associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs from campuses and learning centers across the U.S. as well as online throughout the world. For more information, visit phoenix.edu.

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